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Subject: Arrests and Trials in the Ukraine, 1965 - 1966

Source : Ge, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Date : 3 Oct 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

DATE 2007

1. Source stayed in the Ukraine from 4 July to 12 Aug 1966.

Originally he planned to stay in the Ukraine until 20 Sept but due to pressure exerted on him by authorities, and general atmosphere persisting in the aftermath of recent trials and arrests, particularly of that of HORWNS, he returned by plane on 13 Aug 1966.

Source was not subjected to any direct interrogation in connection with his contacts with HORYNS last year but all the time he was under surveillance. During his stay at KHODOROV and KNISELO with his relative, the KGB sent there "a far cousin" by the name KUKHAR Menon Petrovych of Kharkov who allegedly was taking some cure at MORSHCHYN resort. As soon as Source arrived at KHODOROV, KUKHAR came to KHODORIV and then to KNISELO. He came in very bad weather (it rained cats and dogs) and already this fact alone was bound to arouse suspicion. Pressed by his relatives KUKHAR admitted that he was sent by the KGB and his mission was to report on everything Ge and others were doing. At the same time he asked his relatives not to divulge it to anybody because he was afraid of both ; the KGB and Ukrainian nationalists.

Another informer of the KGB by the name MYKITYN, son of nearby ZHYDACHIV was also watching Ge and his relatives. MYKITYN is generally known as a KGB informer mainly interested in people from abroad.

Source had some unpleasantness because of having failed to register at once with militia after his arrival at KHODORIV but no questions pertinent to his contacts in the past were raised. In Kiev Subject asked LEVISHCHENKO Mykhailo to help him to prolong his <sup>stay in Kiev</sup> ~~stay~~ but the latter could do nothing about it.

Local officials in KHODOROV area received him much cooler than last year. They preferred to stay away from him.

When Source wanted to see Uncle's father he was advised by his relatives not <sup>to</sup> do so. He was told that a militiaman in plain cloths was just round the corner of the street watching Uncle's father and indeed there he was. How did Source's relatives know about it? Very simply, there was a telephone call to Silrada notifying "authorities" that Source had left for their place and instructing militia to watch his movements in general and particularly his meetings with Uncle's father.

When Mykola HORYN, father of Mykhailo and Bohdan, came to Source's relatives to see Ge, all the relatives "literally fled from the house" and left them alone.

It was HORYN Mykola and relatives of Source who supplied <sup>him</sup> with the bulk of information on the arrests and particularly on Lviv trial.

2. HORYN Mykola was in possession of the text of accusation against his sons <sup>or some other pertinent documents</sup>. It was given to him by son's lawyers. Source read it perfunctorily.

HORYN wanted him to take it with him to make it known to the world, and the friends (meaning the Uncle), but Source was afraid to do it.

HORYN also appealed to Source to arrange for some help for his sons and other imprisoned in the concentration camp - both: moral and material - and especially mentioned the uncle as the one who he hoped could do something about it. Horyn thought that eventually the International Red Cross should be able to organize some help. He also stressed the importance of "an outcry abroad" in the press and otherwise and asked what such organizations as UCCA and UCC could do along this line.

Despite his latest experiences HORYN seemed to be in high spirits and quite proud of his sons, and their deeds. Among other things he emphasized that he was sure their sacrifices were not in vain and soon the situation "must change" for better.

Incidentally, until the arrests and trial of Horyns, the populace in general considered them as "communist and traitors" but now their image changed completely and everybody realised they just fooled the regime.

SECRET

-3-

3. According to Horyn Mykola his sons were tried in Lviv together with a journalist and a woman. Source forgot their names. The trial was closed to the public. Even closest relatives of the defendants like parents and wives were not admitted during proceedings.

The trial started in Russian. At once the defendants declared that they were not going to answer judges' questions as long as those conducted their proceedings in Russian. The chief judge consulted his colleagues and they decided to retreat for "further consultation". Finally, the court gave in and the proceedings continued in Ukrainian.

The defendants were charged with spreading false anti-Soviet propaganda about alleged Russification in the Ukraine conducted by the party and government. It was also mentioned that defendants demanded introduction of Ukrainian in all party and administrative organizations, into schools etc. They also demanded introduction of Ukrainian schools for Ukrainian minority in the Russian SFSR.

Two lawyers defended the defendants. In the middle of proceedings they ~~should have~~ indicated that they were worried about too militant an attitude of the defendants at the court. The defendants repudiated all the accusations, they stressed they wanted only to implement the principles of Leninist nationalities policy in the Ukraine and indeed demanded proper rights and adequate position for Ukrainian language and culture. Asked whether they were against Soviet system, the defendants denied it, emphasizing that they were only for implementation of the constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, they were for the rights that the Soviet constitution should guarantee ~~xxx~~ to the Ukrainian people.

The defendants also referred to the satellites and particularly to Poland and claimed that the Ukraine ~~xxx~~ should enjoy the same position, and Ukrainian nation should have same rights as Poles and other satellites in the domain of their political and cultural development.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

At one point their argumentation was so strong that their lawyers threatened to abandon their case.

The final word of HORYN Mykhailo was very patriotic and turned into an accusation against the present Soviet policy in the Ukraine. It was very well elaborated, factual, and substantiated with many examples, and references to Soviet constitution, Lenin, and other party pronouncement on nationalities policy.

In consequence the lawyers resigned from their conclusive pleas explaining that the defendants had adequately defended themselves and there was <sup>nothing</sup> ~~they~~ (the lawyers) ~~they~~ could add to defendants' argumentation.

4. People knew about the trial and when the court was in session huge crowds gathered in front of the building. On the last day of the HORYN'S trial a real demonstration started. There were about 6,000 people among them many students, writers and poets from Kiev. Militia tried to disperse the crowd but was helpless. Finally fire brigades and the military were called. The fire brigades used water hoses but the crowd continued to protest. When the defendants were led to the car one of them stretched out his hand and shouted "Glory to Ukraine". The crowd replied with "Shame on Moscow", "Shame on Tyrants", "Long Live <sup>Ukraine</sup> ~~Ukraine~~" "Go away occupiers" also. Someone began to sing "he pora, he pora" ("It is no time to serve the Russian...") and the crowd picked up. Some militiamen were shooting over people's heads, and fire brigades continued to be busy. The military, however, were not used. The firebrigades managed to handle the job themselves. It was as <sup>powerful</sup> ~~as a powerful~~ an anti-Russian demonstration ~~never~~ seen here before.

Mykhailo Horyn's wife stood close to the door of the court and when her husband was led out, one of the KGBists in civilian cloth, grabbed her and shut her mouth with his hand.

5. In all the trials in Lviv and other places ~~about~~ 32 individuals were sentenced. About 200 people <sup>were</sup> ~~arrested~~ all over Ukraine. HORYN Mykhailo was arrested in Crimea, on one of the ~~the~~ railway station when returning from his vacations. In Crimea, he was ~~also~~ to have had a conference with two other writers.

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

Mykhailo HORYN was sentenced to 6 years and brought to Mordovia .  
Bohdan Horyn got 4 years but he was still in Lviv waiting for another  
trial. The youngest Horyn was expelled from University, and Mykhailo's  
wife from her job. Horyn Mykola is expecting to be sacked from his job, too.  
This is the usual procedure in cases like Haryns.  
Horyns have also to pay court expenses for their sons, or husband, respective.

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